

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 11 and 15-17 are amended and claims 4, 8 and 12 are canceled. No new matter is added by the Amendment. Support for the language added to claims 1, 7, 11 and 15-17 is found in the original specification and claims. In particular, support for the language added to claims 1, 7, 11 and 15-17 is found at, for example, original claims 4, 8 and 12, Figure 6, and at pages 14 and 15 of the specification. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Burleson and Examiner Williams at the personal interview held August 9, 2005, and at the telephone interview with Applicant's representative and Examiner Burleson are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

**I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

Claims 1-6 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,374,291 (Ishibashi); and claims 7-16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishibashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,734,901 (Sidhu). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ishibashi is directed to a method and apparatus for converting a facsimile to electronic mail through a computer network. Specifically, Ishibashi discloses a communication terminal device that converts scanned image data to text data, then edits it according to electronic mail (e-mail) format for transmitting it as e-mail to a computer network such as the Internet. Almost simultaneously with transmission of the e-mail, a receiving side is notified that the e-mail has been transmitted. That is, a transmission side sends a signal requesting reception of the e-mail simultaneously with the transmission of the e-mail. The receiving side receives the

e-mail after receiving the signal requesting reception of the e-mail. Even when delivery of the e-mail has been delayed, the communication terminal device allows the receiving side to receive the e-mail after the receiving side receives the signal requesting reception. The communication terminal device further outputs the image data of the received e-mail. See the Abstract and Col. 1, line 65 to col. 2, line 49 of Ishibashi.

In other words, Ishibashi is directed to scanning a facsimile, converting it to text data and editing it according to an e-mail format, transmitting it as e-mail to a computer network, and at the receiving side, receiving the e-mail from the computer network and converting it into image data to be printed out by a facsimile machine. In summary, a facsimile is transmitted between one facsimile machine and a second facsimile machine via e-mail using the Internet.

However, Ishibashi does not teach a comment device that interrupts a processing of broadcasting facsimile data so that comments may be added to the body of the e-mail before transmitting the e-mail. That is, as acknowledged by the Examiners during the August 9, 2005, personal interview, Ishibashi fails to disclose an interruption device that interrupts processing of the e-mail prior to completion of generating the e-mail; and a writing device that writes information into a body of the e-mail during the interruption of the processing, as recited in each of independent claims 1, 7 and 11. Ishibashi also fails to disclose a computer readable storage medium including an interruption program that interrupts processing of the e-mail prior to completion of generating the e-mail, and a writing program that writes information into a body of the e-mail during the interruption of the processing, as recited in claims 15-17.

Furthermore, as acknowledged by the Examiners during the August 9, 2005, personal interview, nothing in Sidhu remedies the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Ishibashi.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Ishibashi alone or in combination with Sidhu fail to anticipate or otherwise render obvious the subject matter of claims 1, 7, 11 and 15-17, as well as the claims dependent therefrom. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are thus respectfully requested.

**II. 35 U.S.C. §101**

During the August 9, 2005 personal interview, the Examiners indicated that claims 15-17 are subject to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 because these claims are directed to subject matter that lacks structure. In particular, the Examiners noted that a storage medium for storing a program may be any medium, including a piece of paper, or a person's mind. Therefore, the Examiners suggested amending these claims to recite a computer readable storage medium.

Accordingly, Applicant herein further amends each of claims 15-17 as suggested by the Examiners. Applicant submits that these further amendments to claims 15-17, in addition to the arguments above, place claims 15-17 in condition for allowance.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LMS/jth

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 23, 2005

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